

10 Ways \$20,000 (or less) Has Made a Big Difference

- Two rural Indian communities in Arizona (one on the Hopi reservation and one on the Hualapai reservation) now have accessible used oil recycling programs.
- Over 5,500 primarily Chinese-speaking residents of San Francisco's Chinatown received information on the hazards of childhood lead poisoning.
- Residents of West Oakland, California have better access to information about hazardous materials in their neighborhood and what to do in the event of an emergency.
- 300 low-income African American residents in the San Fernando Valley have tested the radon levels in their homes.
- Residents interested in protecting the local environment formed the Ackerman Creek Watershed Committee in Mendocino County, California.
- A new grassroots environmental justice coalition, *Mujeres en Trabajo Ambiental*, has been formed in the sister cities of Nogales, Mexico and Nogales, Arizona.
- A school in Monterey, California, serving a high number of low-income and Spanish-speaking children, is now working on an integrated pesticide management plan to minimize the exposure of children to toxic substances at school.
- Approximately 1,000 migrant farmworkers in San Diego County learned simple low-cost techniques for storing and disinfecting their drinking water.
- Youth from Los Angeles County participated in a public process that reduced the production of pesticides adjacent to a residential area already heavily impacted by air emissions.
- The Port Commission in San Diego adopted a Fumigation Use Policy prohibiting the importation of commodities requiring the use of methyl bromide. This fumigation activity occurred at a facility just ¼ mile from an elementary school in a predominantly Latino community. This is the first such policy to be enacted in the country.



Urban Habitat Program

Grant Products

Below are just some examples of materials organizations have created with small (less than \$20,000) Environmental Justice grants. These products represent only a fraction of the work that has been done. Clearly, the benefits of EPA's investment continue well beyond the one-year project and \$20,000 grant! See Appendix A and 'Success Stories' for more complete descriptions of these projects.



Fish Tales brochures: Outreach on cleaning and cooking techniques to minimize health risks from eating fish. Available in English, Lao, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Cambodian

Videos

Fish Tales: a health education video from the Seafood Consumption Information Project (SCIP) at Save San Francisco Bay Association. Outreach on cleaning and cooking techniques to minimize health risks from eating fish.

Kids At Risk: Getting the Lead out of Your Home.

Produced by Sierra Club in partnership with local environmental justice organizations.

Environmental Health Coalition Video Clips.

Clips of media coverage, public rallies, and community celebrations with comments by local residents and organizers.



Building Upon Our Strengths: A Community Guide to Brownfields Redevelopment



Citizens Guide to Enforcing Environmental Laws in California

Workbooks and Community Guides

Building Upon Our Strengths: A Community Guide to Brownfields Redevelopment in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Produced by Urban Habitat Program.

Citizens Guide to Enforcing Environmental Laws in California.

Produced by Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, Environmental Law and Justice Clinic: The Community Legal Education Project.

Kupa'a Mahope o ka Aina: Workbook for Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians and E Alu Like Mai I Ka Pono (Coming Together for Justice): A Guidebook to Hawai'i's Legislative and Administrative Processes.

A joint project between the Native Hawaiian Advisory Council and the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii.

The Hazardous Materials Awareness & Preparedness Training Workbook.

This student workbook was a joint effort between the Oakland Fire Services Agency, Office of Emergency Services and the African American Development Association, with technical support from Clearwater Revival Company and the U.S. EPA Region 9.



Kupa'a Mahope o ka Aina: Workbook for Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians and E Alu Like Mai I Ka Pono (Coming Together for Justice): A Guidebook to Hawai'i's Legislative and Administrative Processes



The Hazardous Materials Awareness & Preparedness Training Workbook

West Oakland Defensible Space Assessment.

Produced by the African American Development Association, in collaboration with the City of Oakland's Office of Emergency Services. Technical support provided by Clearwater Revival Company.

Memories Come To Us In the Rain and The Wind. Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners & their Families.

Published by the Navajo Uranium Miner Oral History and Photography Project. Sponsored by the Environmental Health Policy Information Project, Tufts School of Medicine.

SALTA, Salud Ambiental Latinas Taking Action, An Environmental Justice and Community Organizing Training Manual. Produced by Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California.

Recycling Centers for Tribes

Hopi Reservation Used Oil Recycling Program.

Established by Paa Qavi, Incorporated in Arizona.

Hualapai Tribe Used Oil Recycling Center.

Modeled after the Hopi Tribe's Recycling Center, the Hualapai Tribe in Peach Springs Arizona established their own program.

Drop-off Center for Dilkon, Teesto and Seba Dalkai.

Established by Dine Citizen's Against Ruining our Environment (Dine Care), an all-Navajo community based environmental organization based in Winslow, Arizona.

Multilingual Outreach Materials

Multilingual fish consumption brochures and Warning Poster in 6 languages.

Produced by the Seafood Consumption Information Project (SCIP) at Save San Francisco Bay Association, Oakland, California.

Household Hazardous Material Bilingual Education Materials.

Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc. Tucson, Arizona produced a series of eight educational workbooks in English and Spanish.

Navajo Uranium Miners Oral History project: A Traveling Exhibit.

Audio recordings and visual images of the experiences of Navajo uranium miners who were exposed to hazardous levels of radiation from the 1940's through the 1970's. Produced by Tufts School of Medicine. Boston, Massachusetts.

Espectaculo Publico (Cuidate/ Protect Yourself).

This "Novella" (a Spanish-language picture book) illustrates how a family should protect themselves from pesticide-related illnesses. The "Novella" is performed by a local community theater group and is available as a book. Produced by the Arizona Department of Health Service, Center for Minority Health.

Information Hotlines

Pesticide Drift Informational Hotline.

Established by Pesticide Watch in San Francisco, California, in partnership with the Community Coalition to End Pesticide Drift.

Toxics Watch Hotline.

Part of the Toxic Free Barrio Logan Campaign, a combined effort of the Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee, the Environmental Health Coalition and the Mercado Apartments Tenants Association.

Environmental Justice Newsletter & Hotline for residents of South Phoenix.

Produced by Don't Waste Arizona and Concerned Residents of South Phoenix, Arizona.

Contact the organization or the Region 9 Environmental Justice Information line (415/744-1565) for more information or copies of any of these items.



West Oakland Defensible Space Assessment



Household Hazardous Material Bilingual Education Materials



Memories Come To Us In the Rain and The Wind. Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners & their Families



Espectaculo Publico (Cuidate/ Protect Yourself)

What we heard — Grant recipients speak for themselves

The unique aspects of this Small Grant Program and the value it has brought to communities came through strongly in our interviews with past recipients. Below, recipients of Environmental Justice Small Grants speak for themselves:



On the value of partnerships...

"Many of us grew up witnessing the classic confrontational styles of the various interest groups in the region ... Our workshops fostered a collaborative process and built relationships between the various people interested in the resources and natural beauty of Ackerman Creek Watershed. Including local people in the process brought passion to the planning process that a room full of professionals could not. This kind of contribution cannot be quantified, yet without it the planning process is a simple formula that does not always lead to success — passion, plus conviction leads to excitement, and that, ultimately, makes the process meaningful. The workshop injected people with enthusiasm, they found the spark to form the Ackerman Creek Watershed Committee which did not exist before." *Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians (in partnership with the Mendocino Environmental Center), Ukiah, California.*

St. Peter's Housing's Lead Hazard Reduction Program depends on partnerships with other community-based organizations and local agencies in San Francisco's predominantly Latino Mission District. As they explain, "Lead education is transparent unless it is linked with health centers that can provide blood lead testing or housing counselors to assist with lead abatement in housing. Our philosophy is to train other community-based organizations about lead abatement and then they in turn can educate their members or constituents directly." *St. Peter's Housing Committee, San Francisco, California.*

"The Environmental Justice grant that we received for the *Promotoras de Salud Project* was very beneficial. The *Promotoras* held educational meetings for Migrant Education and worked with AmeriCorps to provide training at the Festival de la Salud. Various connections were made with the University of California and national institutions. Some relationships were developed with county-level government agencies." *California Institute for Rural Studies, Sacramento, California.*

On the value of community involvement...

"Both our projects were based upon community involvement. For the *Kupa'a* grant, we worked with the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, and various individuals active in the Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) communities to organize the workshops themselves on each island. With the *E Alu Like Mai* workshops, we joined forces with Ilio'ulaokalani, an organization of kumu hula (hula teachers) statewide. Ilio members not only helped set up the workshops, but also participated in them by sharing their experiences in working on Kanaka Maoli issues before government agencies. I firmly believe that community involvement in organizing and running the meetings was a key to the success of both projects." *University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, Manoa.*

"Involvement of community-based groups and leaders was a central component of our grant project. Because the major goal of our grant was to provide a community voice in Brownfields redevelopment in the Bay Area, we could not have achieved this without strong partnerships with communities of color." *Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, California.*

"The *Promotoras* were community representatives. The workshops and training were conducted in Spanish. We were able to reach a "hard-to-reach", sometimes invisible, community because we trained people from the community." *California Institute for Rural Studies, Davis, California.*

On enhanced communication...

Enhancing communication between the community residents and local, state, and federal governments was a common goal for many organizations.

"In reviewing the grants for this evaluation we were struck by how the communication skills of the community have increased and by how each grant project built on the accomplishments of the last. Since we are working in communities with a large, mono-lingual Spanish population, facilitating communication between them and the predominantly mono-lingual English officials was an important part of the work." *Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California.*

"This grant is strengthening our efforts to involve more community members in reviewing policy documents and responding to requests-for-public comments on various issues. More importantly, the grant allows us to independently clarify the probable source, times, and degree of leaks from the plant and communicate this information to neighborhood residents and the EPA." *Puna Malama Pono, Inc., Pahoehoe, Hawaii.*

"We have noted a marked increase in public testimony of Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian people); and several testifiers have either during their testimony or during a break, commented that they attended the EPA-funded workshops and have used the workbooks they were given at the workshops." According to the grantee, "as a result of the comments received at the public meetings, a task force on implementing Native Hawaiian gathering rights completely revised their recommendations." *University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law, Manoa.*



Environmental Health Coalition

On leveraging other support...

"The original EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant provided the seed money for our environmental justice community education and empowerment project, *Salud Ambiental, Latina Tomando Accion (SALTA, Environmental Health, Latinas Taking Action)*. As this project developed, we were able to secure additional funding from a wide variety of private foundations, including the James Irvine Foundation, to expand the training, the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation to distribute the training manual nationwide, and the California Endowment to hire five of the *Promotoras* as community organizers. In addition to receiving money directly, our work through the SALTA project contributed to the City of San Diego receiving \$100,000 from the EPA for a Brownfields project and allocating \$400,000 for the Community Development Block Grant funds to relocate chrome plating shops out of the residential neighborhood." *Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, California.*

"Receiving the grant from the EPA gave us an image of reliability and credibility within the community... In the last six months we were able to apply for and receive a small grant from a local community fund to help us in writing, duplicating, and mailing a short newsletter with information and updates about the air monitoring program and other environmental issues in the community." *Puna Malama Pono, Inc., Pahoehoe, Hawaii.*

"Our Lead Hazard Reduction Project touches a marginalized citizenship. We provide the only lead poisoning prevention program aimed specifically at Spanish speaking day laborers in the city of San Francisco. The environmental justice small grant money was used to start up the program and since then we have received two other grants to continue the lead program." *St. Peter's Housing Committee, San Francisco, California.*

"With support from the Environmental Justice Small Grant Program, *Lideras Campesinas* began as a project of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation over six years ago and in the last two years has functioned as an independent non-profit organization." *Lideras Campesinas, Pomona, California.*

On raising awareness about environmental issues....

"Urban Habitat Program's regional land use and sustainability framework provided connections between Brownfields and other environmental justice issues, including transportation and air quality, environmental health and lead issues, food security, and urban sprawl and inner city disinvestment." *Urban Habitat Program, San Francisco, California.*

"Urban gardening and environmental education became viable parts of conversations about improving the urban environment. Community gardens have made these issues common topics with policy leaders as well." *Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles, California.*

"Working on this small grant project brought to light other environmental problems that we were not aware of. For example, when we did the air pollution tests we found an asphalt burner was responsible for creating most of the pollution, instead of the solid waste landfill as we had thought." *Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Scottsdale, Arizona.*